



DC COMICS™

24

JOHN LAYMAN

JASON FABOK

THE NEW 52!

Batman DETECTIVE COMICS™



FABOK
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BLOND

UNBRIDLED WRATH!

DEC 2013

RATED T TEEN

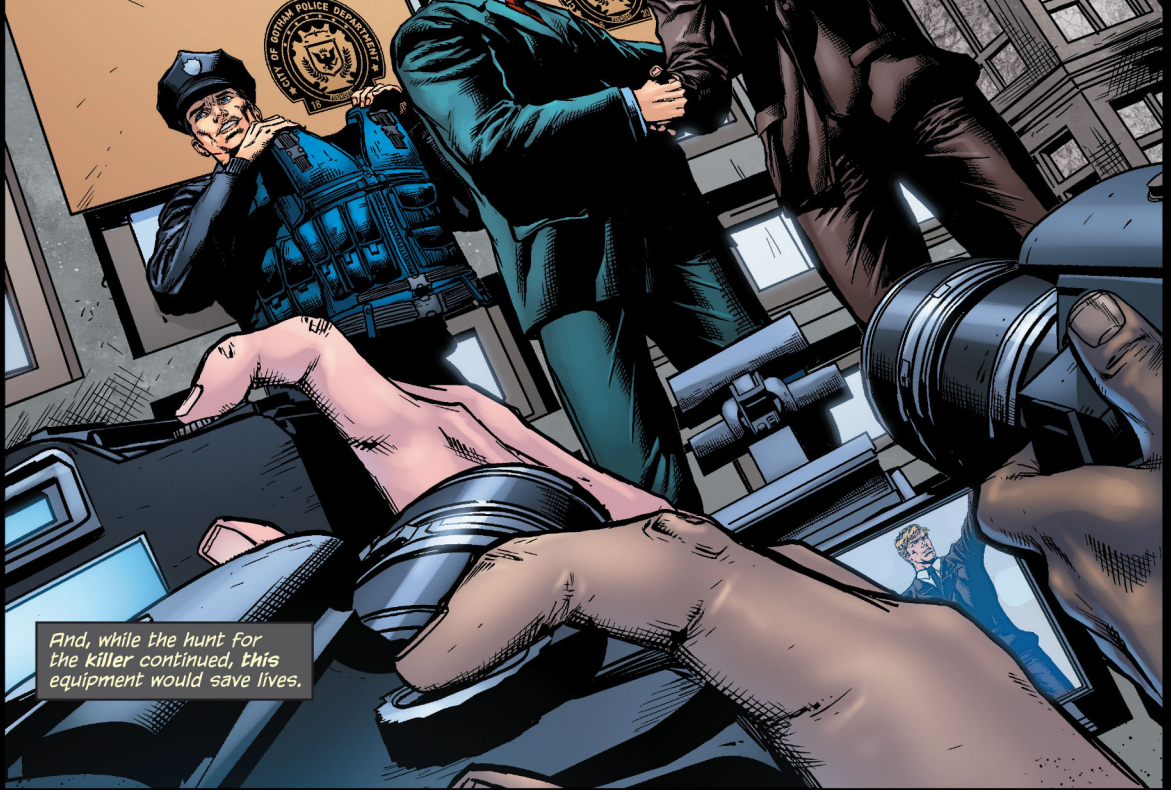
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Mayor Hady was all smiles that day.

Very publicly thanking E.D. Caldwell and Caldwell Technologies for their multimillion-dollar equipment donation to the G.C.P.D.

These were dark times for the Gotham City Police Department. Officers were being targeted for assassination.

**CALDWELL
SAVES LIVES**



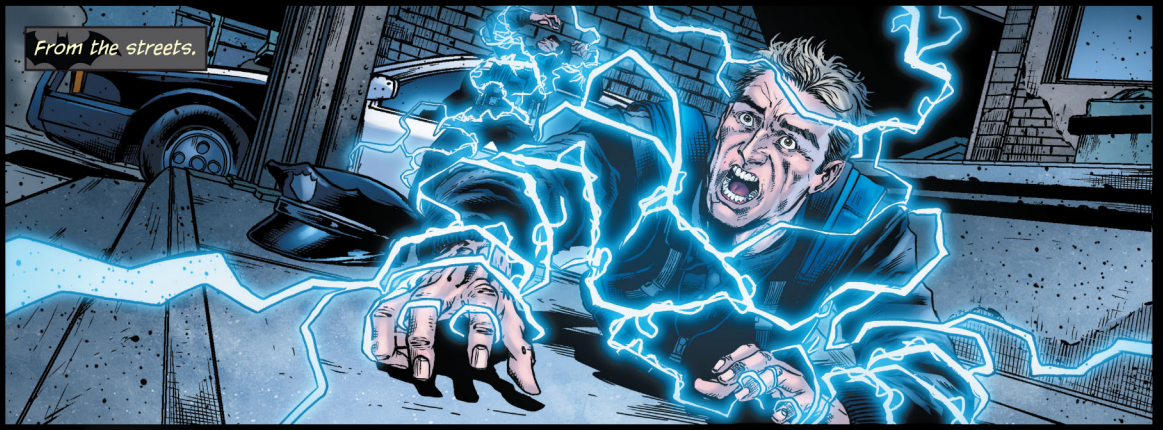
And, while the hunt for the killer continued, this equipment would save lives.

Only, as it turned out, it was the killer who donated the equipment.

Who designed it not to save lives...

...but to take them.

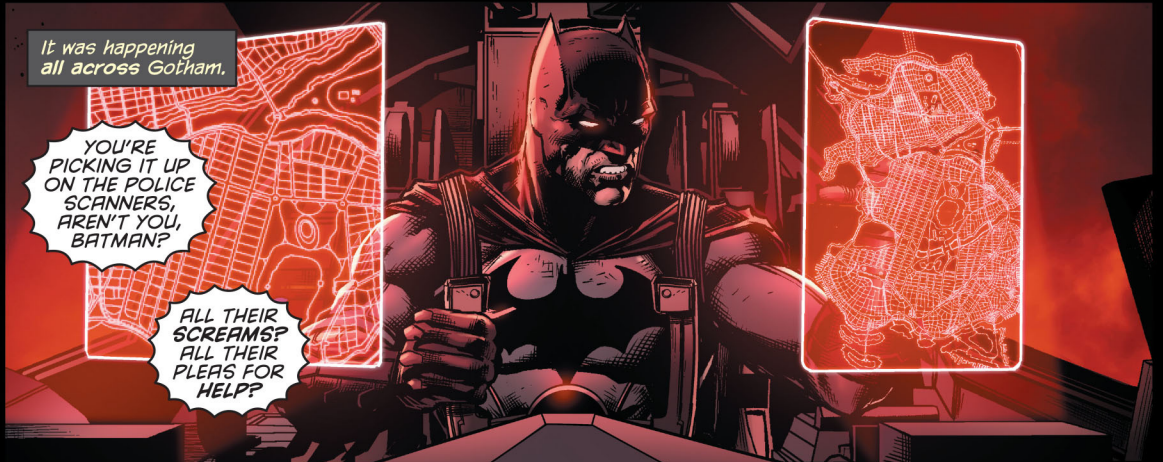




From the streets.



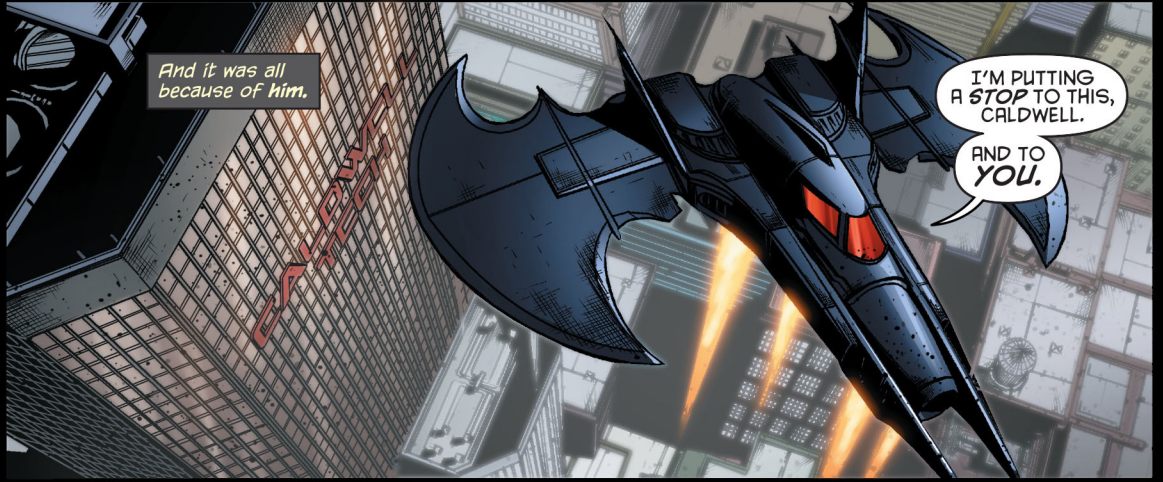
To the station houses.



It was happening all across Gotham.

YOU'RE PICKING IT UP ON THE POLICE SCANNERS, AREN'T YOU, BATMAN?

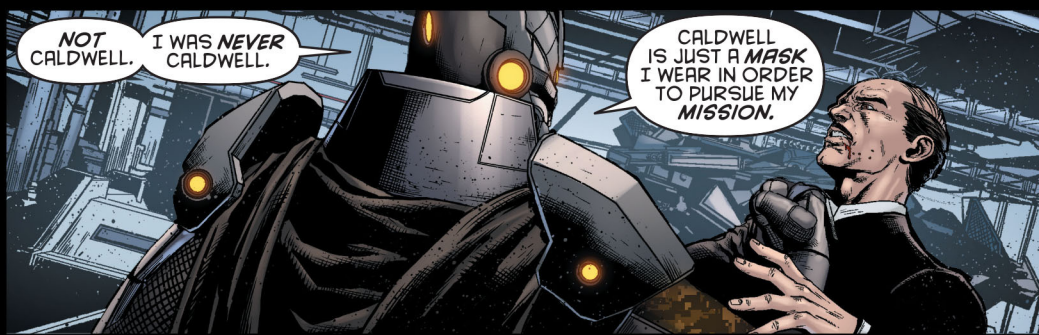
ALL THEIR SCREAMS? ALL THEIR PLEAS FOR HELP?



And it was all because of him.

I'M PUTTING A STOP TO THIS, CALDWELL.

AND TO YOU.



NOT CALDWELL. I WAS NEVER CALDWELL.

CALDWELL IS JUST A MASK I WEAR IN ORDER TO PURSUE MY MISSION.



I AM WRATH.

I'M THROUGH WITH YOUR PENNYWORTH STOGE.

AND IT'S TIME I COMPLETE MY MISSION.

KLUDD



THE ENTIRE GOTHAM CITY POLICE FORCE IS FEELING MY WRATH.

AND IT WILL BE THE LAST THING THEY FEEL. PAINFULLY. SLOWLY.



YOU'VE MADE A NUISANCE OF YOURSELF FOR TOO LONG, BATMAN.



Batman in **DETECTIVE COMICS** **STATE OF SHOCK**

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cover by **JASON FABOK & BLOND** assoc. editor **KATIE KUBERT**
group editor **MIKE MARTS** BATMAN created by **BOB KANE**



Ninety percent of the G.C.P.D.
has been incapacitated.

And in approximately
four and a half minutes,
they'll be dead.

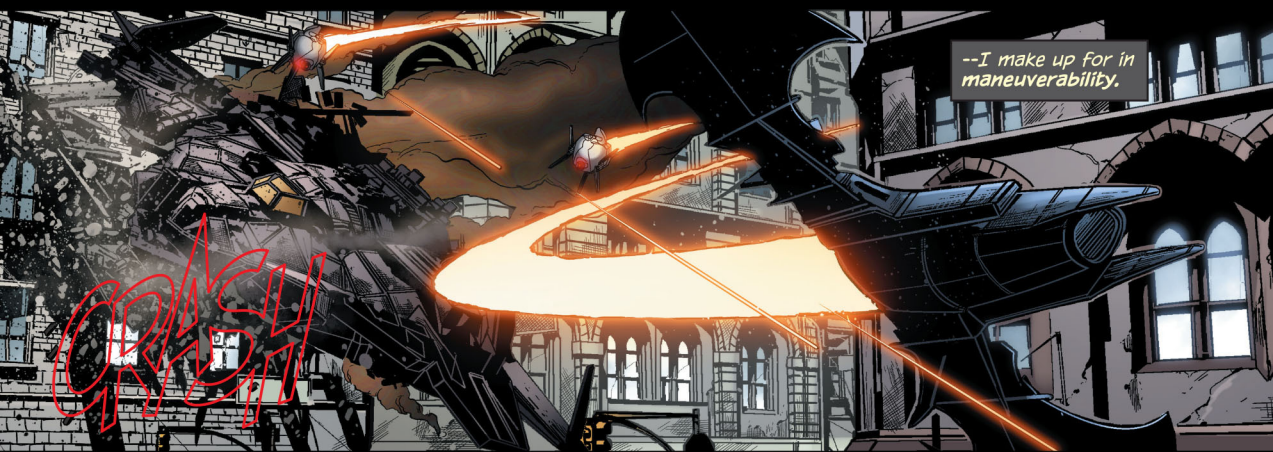


*His hardware
is impressive.*

*Clearly, Caldwell saved the
best of the military equipment
he manufactures for himself.*



*But what advantage he has
in offensive capability--*



*--I make up for in
maneuverability.*



*I'm confident I could
bring Wrath down, but
it would take time.*

*And time is exactly
what I don't have.*





*This is the second Batplane I've had to sacrifice in as many months.**

But it did what it needed to do.

**It last happened in Detective #21, 'member? --Mike*



Disabling Wrath's warplane.



While allowing me to successfully field-test my refractive metaminer glider.

So I could be where I needed to be.

And in time... I hoped.

OUR MEN ARE FRYING.

WE HAVE TO DO SOMETHING, HARVEY.

DON'T TOUCH 'EM, COMMISSIONER, OR YOU'LL END UP FRYING, TOO!



B-BATMAN?

IT'S DONE, ALFRED.

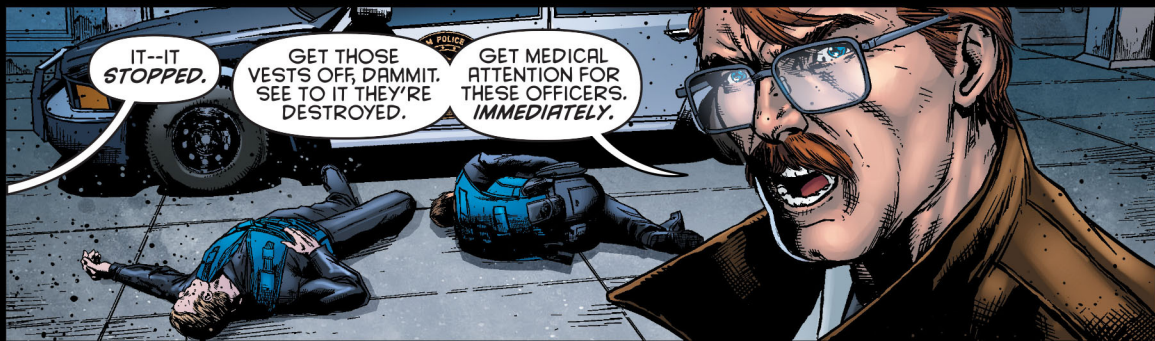
WRATH IS GONE, AND THE BUILDING WAS EVACUATED ONCE THE SHOOTING STARTED.



IT--IT STOPPED.

GET THOSE VESTS OFF, DAMMIT. SEE TO IT THEY'RE DESTROYED.

GET MEDICAL ATTENTION FOR THESE OFFICERS. IMMEDIATELY.



"GONE"? DID YOU STOP HIM?

ONLY TEMPORARILY.

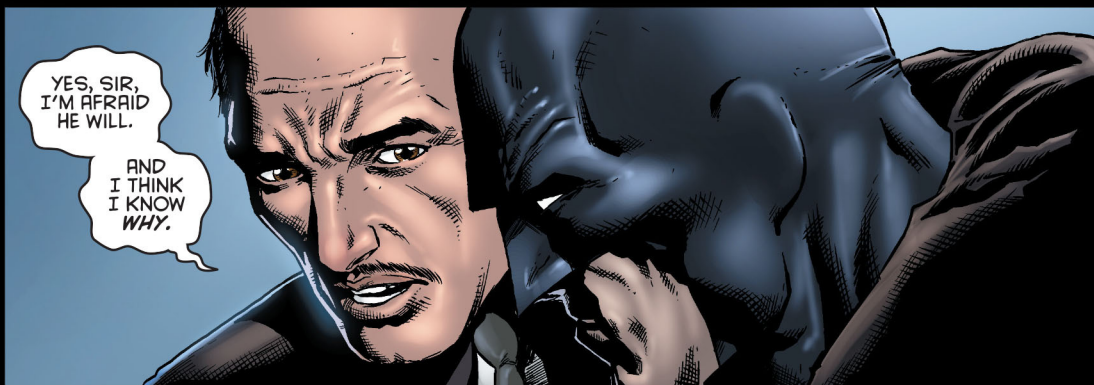
WRATH HAS JUST DISCOVERED THIS WAR HE'S WAGING AGAINST THE GOTHAM CITY POLICE FORCE IS GOING TO BE LONGER THAN HE THOUGHT.

NO DOUBT HE'LL RESPOND BY MAKING IT BLOODIER.



YES, SIR, I'M AFRAID HE WILL.

AND I THINK I KNOW WHY.

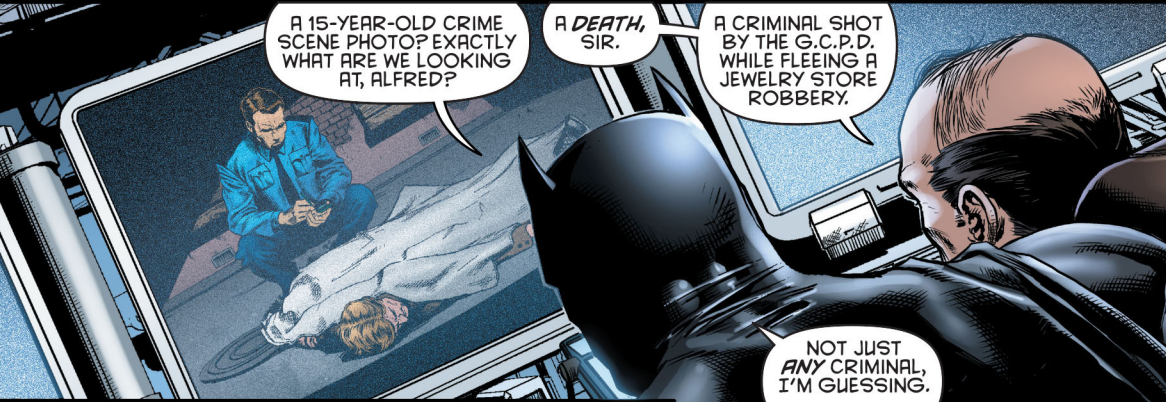




TAKA TAKA TAKA
TAKA TAKA

JUST A MOMENT, SIR. I'LL CALL UP THE PERTINENT INFORMATION...

...ON THE, ER... WRATH-COMPUTER.

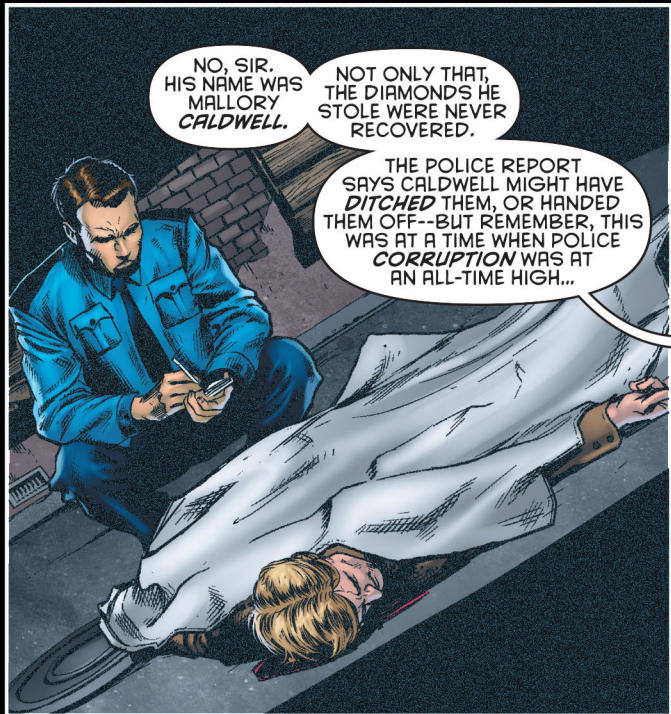


A 15-YEAR-OLD CRIME SCENE PHOTO? EXACTLY WHAT ARE WE LOOKING AT, ALFRED?

A **DEATH**, SIR.

A CRIMINAL SHOT BY THE G.C.P.D. WHILE FLEEING A JEWELRY STORE ROBBERY.

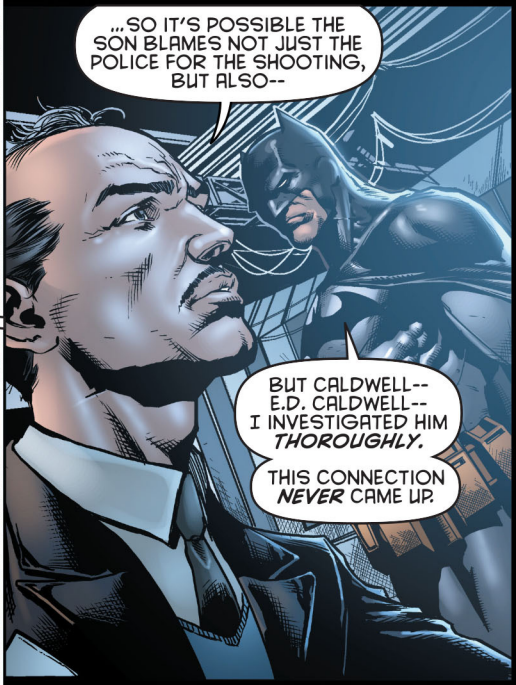
NOT JUST **ANY** CRIMINAL, I'M GUESSING.



NO, SIR. HIS NAME WAS **MALLORY CALDWELL**.

NOT ONLY THAT, THE DIAMONDS HE STOLE WERE NEVER RECOVERED.

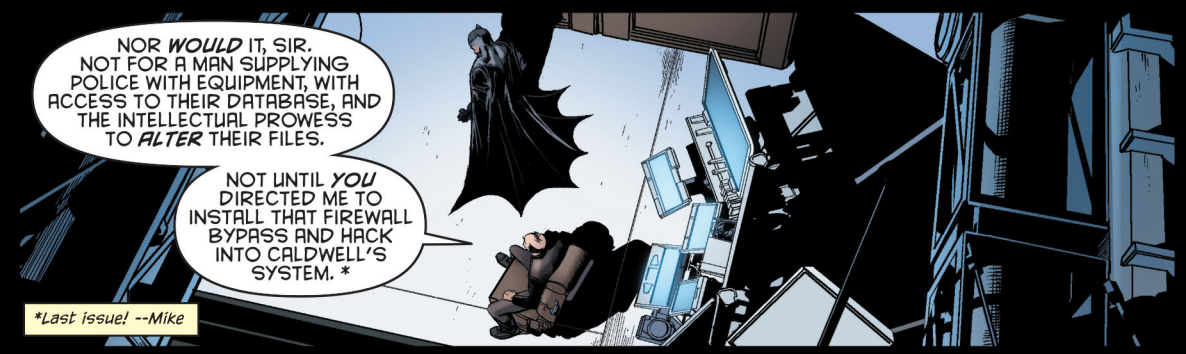
THE POLICE REPORT SAYS CALDWELL MIGHT HAVE **DITCHED** THEM, OR HANDED THEM OFF--BUT REMEMBER, THIS WAS AT A TIME WHEN **POLICE CORRUPTION** WAS AT AN ALL-TIME HIGH...



...SO IT'S POSSIBLE THE SON **BLAMES** NOT JUST THE POLICE FOR THE SHOOTING, BUT ALSO--

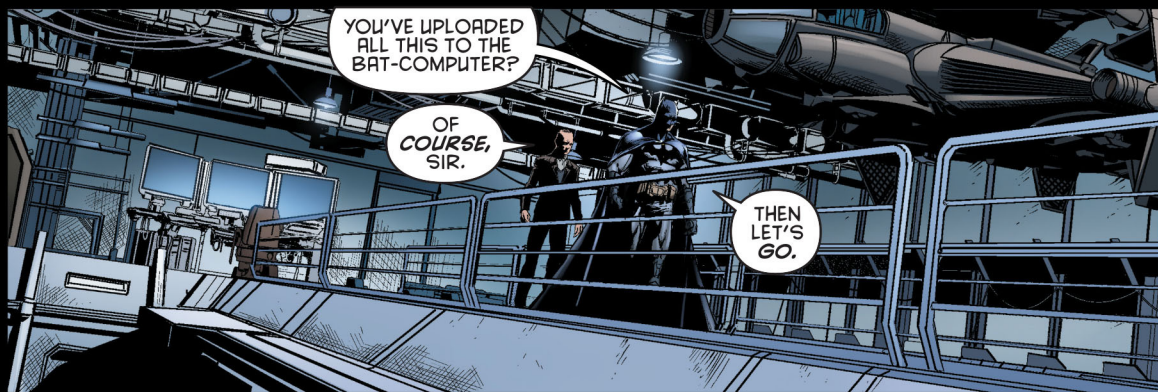
BUT CALDWELL-- **E.D. CALDWELL**-- I INVESTIGATED HIM **THOROUGHLY**.

THIS CONNECTION **NEVER** CAME UP.



NOR **WOULD** IT, SIR. NOT FOR A MAN SUPPLYING POLICE WITH EQUIPMENT, WITH ACCESS TO THEIR DATABASE, AND THE INTELLECTUAL PROWESS TO **ALTER** THEIR FILES.

NOT UNTIL **YOU** DIRECTED ME TO INSTALL THAT FIREWALL BYPASS AND HACK INTO CALDWELL'S SYSTEM. *



YOU'VE UPLOADED ALL THIS TO THE BAT-COMPUTER?

OF COURSE, SIR.

THEN LET'S GO.



WHAT DO WE DO, SIR...ABOUT THIS PLACE?




WE ERASE IT FROM THE MAP OF GOTHAM.

EXACTLY WHAT I PLAN ON DOING WITH WRATH.

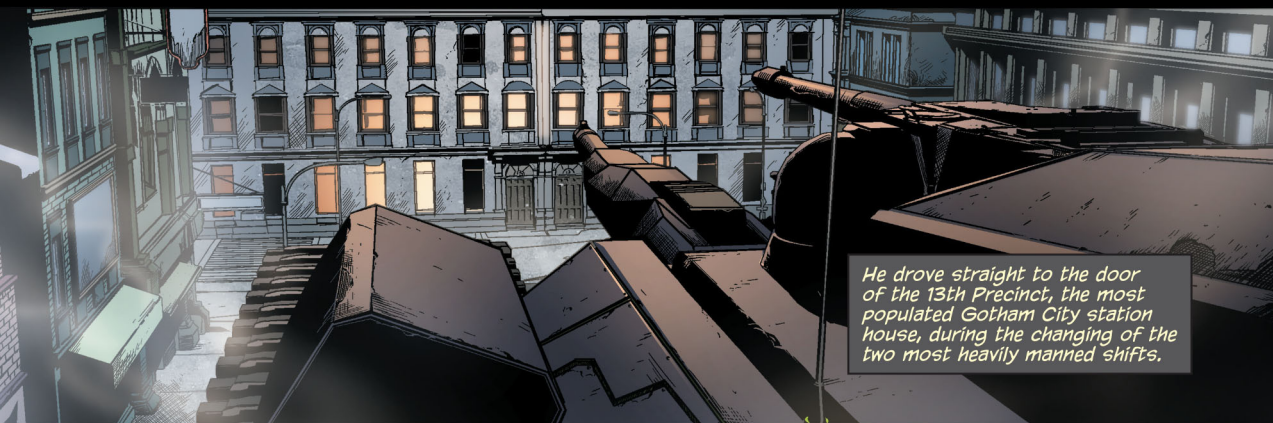
HOW?

CONNECT TO JAMES GORDON.







It was exactly 5:45 PM when Wrath resurfaced, driving an extensively modified, Caldwell produced, reinforced-armor, heavy-artillery vehicle.



He drove straight to the door of the 13th Precinct, the most populated Gotham City station house, during the changing of the two most heavily manned shifts.



He proceeded to open fire.



Then he got out of the tank and walked through what remained of the doors of the station house, expecting to find nothing but death and destruction.

Instead he
found me.





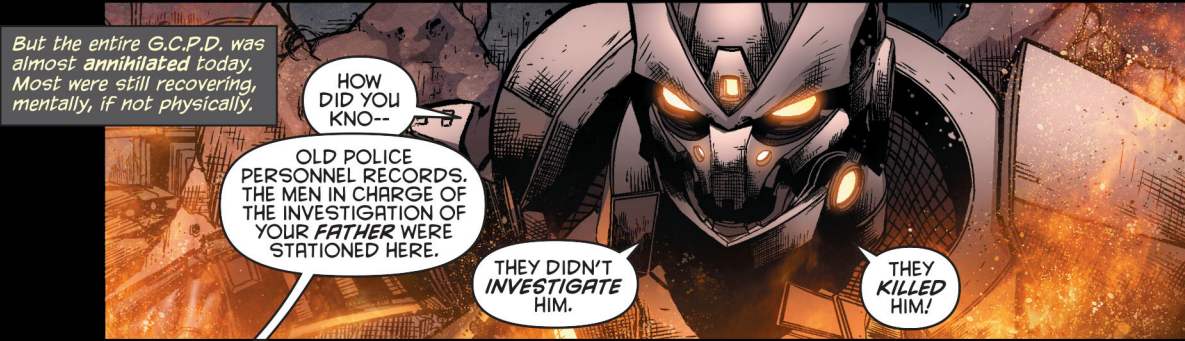
And he found only me.

I convinced Gordon to evacuate the station house. For the Gotham City Police Department to cooperate with Batman.

Unthinkable under normal circumstances.

WHAT?! THERE'S NOBODY HERE!

I'M HERE, WRATH.



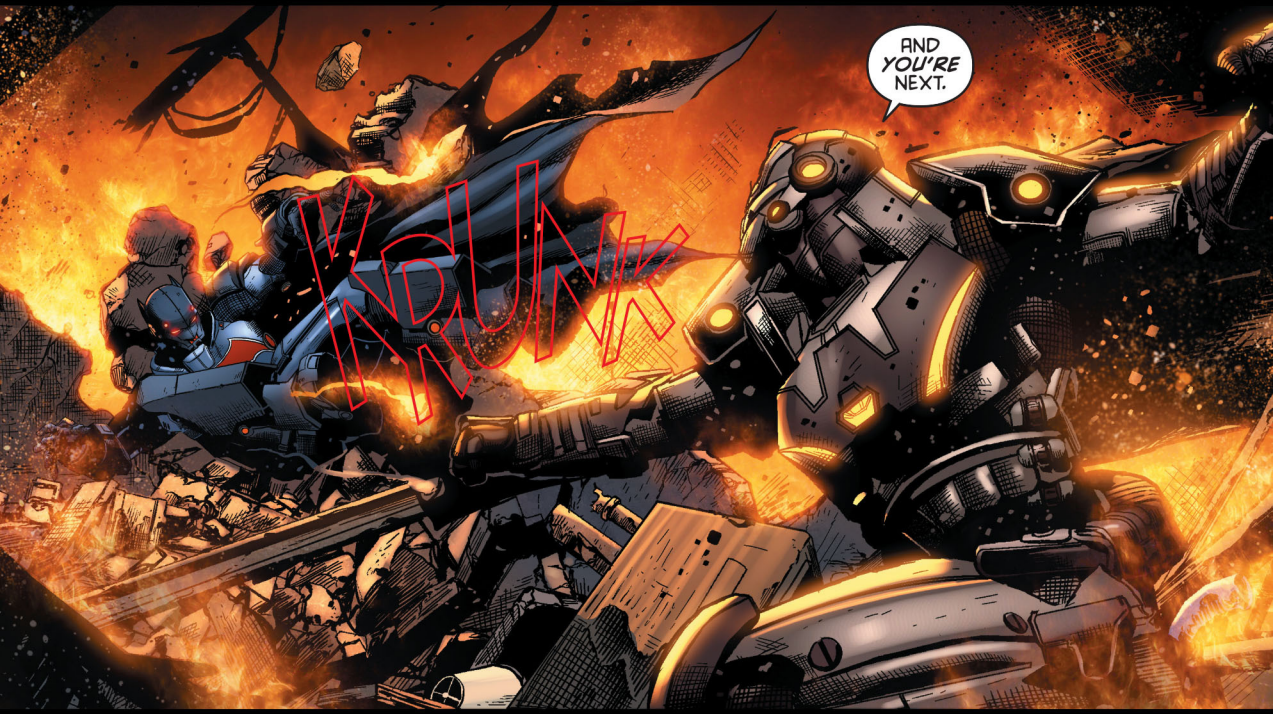
But the entire G.C.P.D. was almost annihilated today. Most were still recovering, mentally, if not physically.

HOW DID YOU KNOW--

OLD POLICE PERSONNEL RECORDS. THE MEN IN CHARGE OF THE INVESTIGATION OF YOUR FATHER WERE STATIONED HERE.

THEY DIDN'T INVESTIGATE HIM.

THEY KILLED HIM!

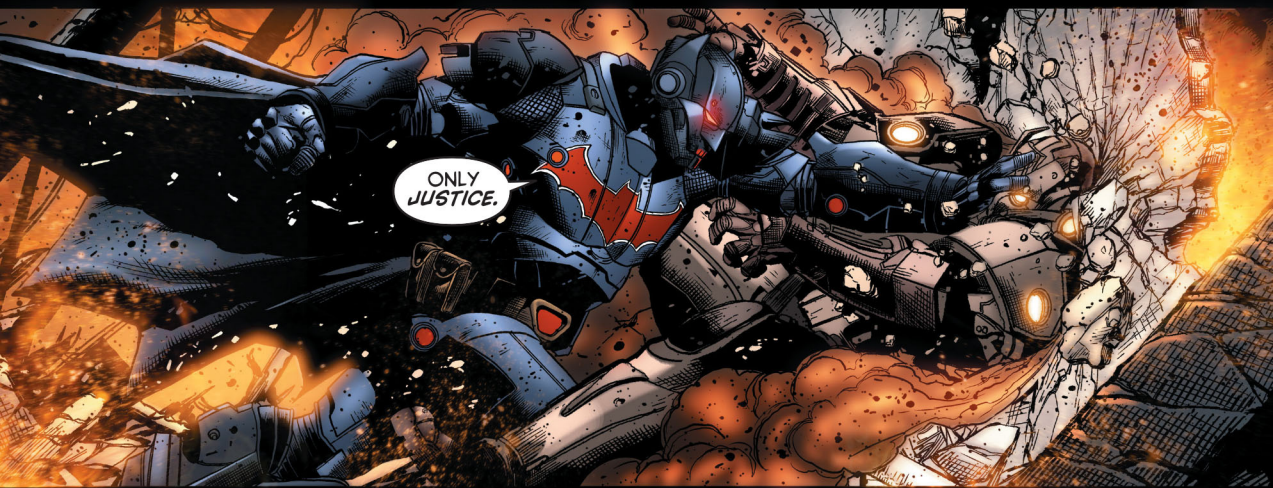


AND YOU'RE NEXT.



NO. NO MORE MURDER.

NO MORE REVENGE.



ONLY JUSTICE.



CRACK

WHERE'S MY JUSTICE, BATMAN?



FWAM

WHERE'S THE JUSTICE FOR MY FATHER?



I'LL SHOW YOU.

It was a fight to get James Gordon to leave the station house, but I'd stressed how very dangerous and well equipped Wrath was.

I told Gordon to pull his men and women back a full four-block radius just to be safe...



KKRRAK KESH

...knowing full well
Gordon would not.

MR. CALDWELL, YOU
ARE UNDER ARREST ON
MULTIPLE COUNTS OF THE
MURDER OF OFFICERS OF THE
GOTHAM CITY POLICE
DEPARTMENT.

YOU?
STOP
ME?

EVEN WITH
BATMAN, YOU
CAN'T.

Wrath was wrong,
of course.

He was exposed. His armor
was damaged. Vulnerable.

I could have
taken him down.

YOU PROBABLY
THINK THAT.
YOU'VE KILLED
A LOT OF US.

AND TODAY,
YOU ALMOST KILLED
ALL OF US.

YOU USED
OUR EQUIPMENT
AGAINST US.

But the G.C.P.D.--



—they needed this victory.

TIME FOR US TO RETURN THE FAVOR.

FIRE!



FWOOM



HERE'S YOUR JUSTICE, AND I'M SURE YOU KNOW THIS, BUT YOUR NEED FOR REVENGE KEPT YOU FROM CARING.

JAMES GORDON IS THE MAN WHO ULTIMATELY TOOK DOWN THE CROOKED COPS RESPONSIBLE FOR YOUR FATHER'S DEATH.

THE MEN WHO PUT HIM IN A GRAVE, INSTEAD OF IN JAIL, WHERE HE BELONGED.



AND JAIL IS WHERE WE'LL BE SENDING YOU!

KRAKA



GET HIM TO BLACKGATE.

NICE SHOT.

I SAW THE SORT OF PUNISHMENT THAT SUIT OF HIS COULD TAKE. I KNEW IT WASN'T GOING TO KILL HIM.



ABOUT THE STATION HOUSE, JIM...

...I CAN TALK TO BRUCE WAYNE, AND MAKE SURE HE DONATES *GENEROUSLY* FOR THE REBUILDING.

NO NEED.

THE CASE AGAINST CALDWELL IS IRONCLAD. HIS ASSETS WILL BE SEIZED.



AND ALL THAT *MONEY* OF HIS WILL FINALLY BE PUT TO *GOOD* USE.



YOU *SAVED* US, BATMAN. THE ENTIRE FORCE. DON'T THINK I'M THE ONLY ONE--

GOOD NIGHT, JIM.



HOLD ON A MINUTE, BATMAN.

I WANNA WORD WITH YOU.

OFFICER WALLACE.



I NEVER MUCH *LIKED* YOU, BATMAN.

YOU AND THE REST OF YOUR "BAT FAMILY."

I ALWAYS FIGURED FOR EVERY PSYCHO YOU GUYS TOOK DOWN, ANOTHER GOT INSPIRED AND POPPED UP IN THEIR PLACE.

AND THAT'S AN OPINION I AIN'T *EVER* BEEN SHY ABOUT MAKING KNOWN.*

HELL, WHEN *SCORN* SHOWED UP AND STARTED OFFIN' COPS, I WAS HALF CONVINCED YOU WERE IN LEAGUE WITH HIM.**

*It's true! See *Detective #19!* --MM

**And he said as much, too, in *Detective #22.*



DO YOU HAVE A *POINT*, OFFICER?



"I WAS IN THE LOCKER ROOM WHEN MY PARTNER AND EVERYBODY ELSE IN MY SHIFT GOT ZAPPED HALF TO DEATH.



"AND THERE WASN'T A DAMN THING I COULD DO."

YOU *HELPED* A LOT OF MY FRIENDS, A LOT OF GUYS LIKE ME WHO WOULDN'T STOP TO *SPIT* ON YOU IF YOU WERE ON FIRE.

AND IT WASN'T THE *FIRST* TIME YOU DONE THAT.

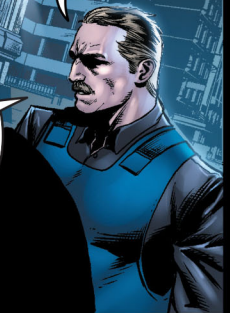
I'VE BEEN ON THE FORCE A LOTTA YEARS. SIXTEEN OF 'EM. I REMEMBER THE WAY THINGS WERE *BEFORE* YOU.



BACK WHEN *LOEB* WAS COMMISSIONER, NOT GORDON, AND EVERYBODY WAS CROOKED AND EVERYTHING WAS UGLY.

THIS WRATH GUY IS ON *US*. NOT ON YOU. BECAUSE OF THE WAY THINGS *USED* TO BE.

AT LEAST NOW WE GOT SOMEBODY FIGHTIN' TO MAKE IT *BETTER*.



I GUESS WHAT I'M TRYING TO SAY IS I'M *SORRY*, BATMAN.

MAYBE HAVING ALL THESE *BATS* AROUND GOTHAM...





"...MAYBE THAT
AIN'T NECESSARILY
A *BAD* THING."

A FEW DAYS LATER, ELSEWHERE...

->HUFFF<-
->HUFFF<-
->HUFFF<-



EYIII!!!



AARRRGHH!



AND A FEW DAYS LATER STILL...
BLACKGATE PRISON.

THOUGHT YOU'D WANT TO *SEE* THIS, CALDWELL.

WHY WOULD YOU *DO* THIS, COMMISSIONER GORDON?

I KILLED SOME OF YOUR OFFICERS.

I WANTED TO KILL THEM *ALL*.

AND I WANTED TO KILL *YOU*.

NONETHELESS...

CALDWELL, MALLORY.

THAT *CASE* WAS OLD AS DIRT. WHY'D YOU OPEN IT AGAIN AND INVESTIGATE? WHY'D YOU BOTHER TO CLEAR MY FATHER'S NAME AND FINGER A BUNCH OF OLD, DEAD COPS?

THAT JUST MAKES YOUR DEPARTMENT LOOK BAD, NO MATTER *HOW* LONG AGO IT HAPPENED.

I DIDN'T DO THIS FOR *YOU*.

I DID IT BECAUSE IT'S THE *RIGHT* THING TO DO.

THAT'S WHAT JUSTICE IS.

I DON'T EXPECT YOU TO UNDERSTAND, BUT MAYBE YOU CAN *THINK* ON IT.

AFTER ALL, MR. CALDWELL...

"...YOU'VE GOT NOTHING BUT TIME."

C'MON, CALDWELL.

BACK TO YOUR CELL.

WHAT WAS THAT ABOUT?

POLICE COMMISSIONER. CORRECTING AN OLD WRONG.

THINKING IT WOULD MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

BUT IT WON'T.

THE MINUTE I GET OUT OF HERE, HE'S A DEAD MAN.

AND EVERY COP WHO SERVES UNDER HIM.

AND THEN, BATMAN.

SOUNDS LIKE YOU GOT BIG PLANS FOR THE FUTURE.

WE SHOULD TALK ABOUT THAT.

next: *In the Time of the Crooked Men. The G.C.P.D. - ZERO YEAR.*



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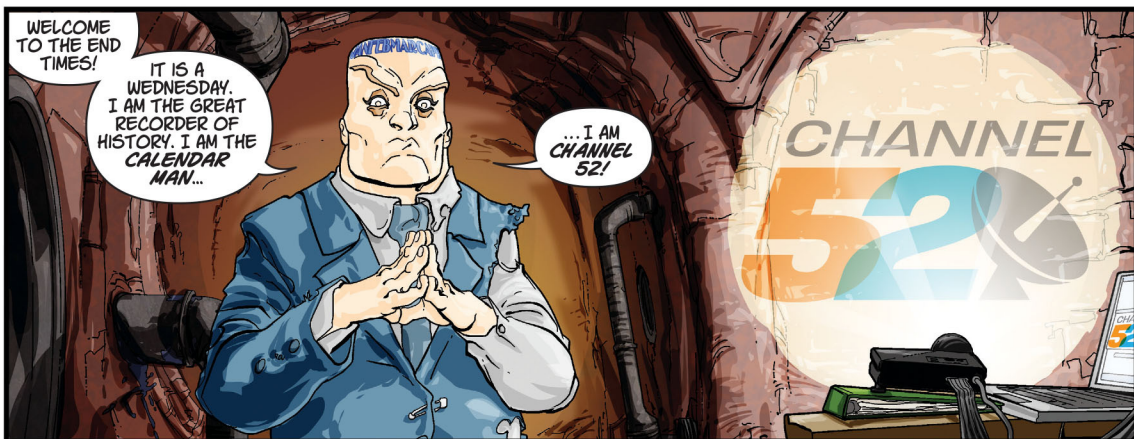
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UNBRIDLED WRATH!

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WELCOME TO THE END TIMES!

IT IS A WEDNESDAY. I AM THE GREAT RECORDER OF HISTORY. I AM THE CALENDAR MAN...

... I AM CHANNEL 52!



FOREVER EVIL! WITH THAT PRONOUNCEMENT THE CRIME SYNDICATE HAD ARRIVED ON OUR WORLD.

THEY HAVE SEEMINGLY DEPOSED THE WORLD'S HERO POPULATION AND COMMAND AN ARMY OF KILLERS, PSYCHOPATHS AND DEVIANTS KNOWN AS THE *SECRET SOCIETY*.

AETERNUS MALUM



BUT WHO IS THIS BAND OF JUSTICE LEAGUE DOPPELGANGERS?

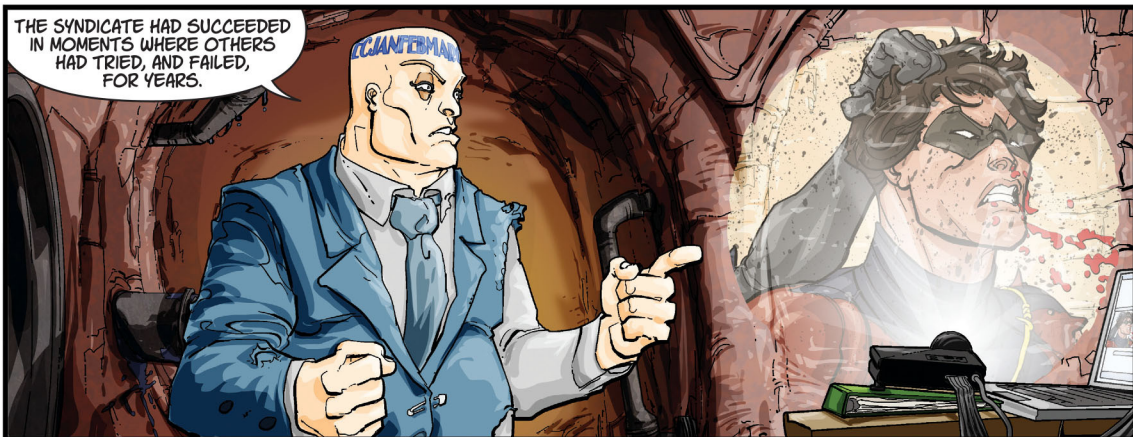
WHERE DO THEY COME FROM?

WHILE WE KNOW SO LITTLE ABOUT THEM, THEY KNOW EVERYTHING ABOUT US!

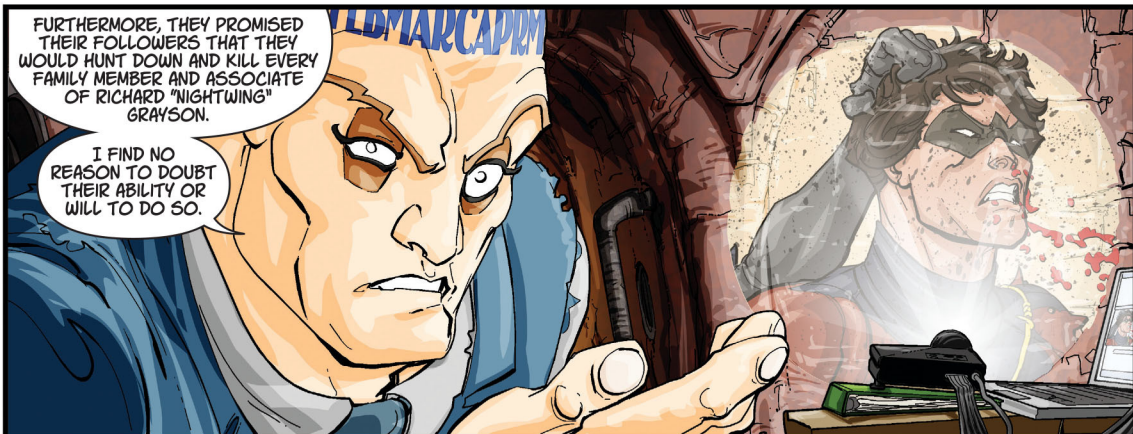


TAKE THEIR ABUSE OF THE VIGILANTE KNOWN ONLY AS *NIGHTWING!*

WELL, HE WAS ONLY NIGHTWING UNTIL THE SYNDICATE BROKE HIM DOWN AND ANNOUNCED HIS IDENTITY TO BE ONE *RICHARD GRAYSON!*

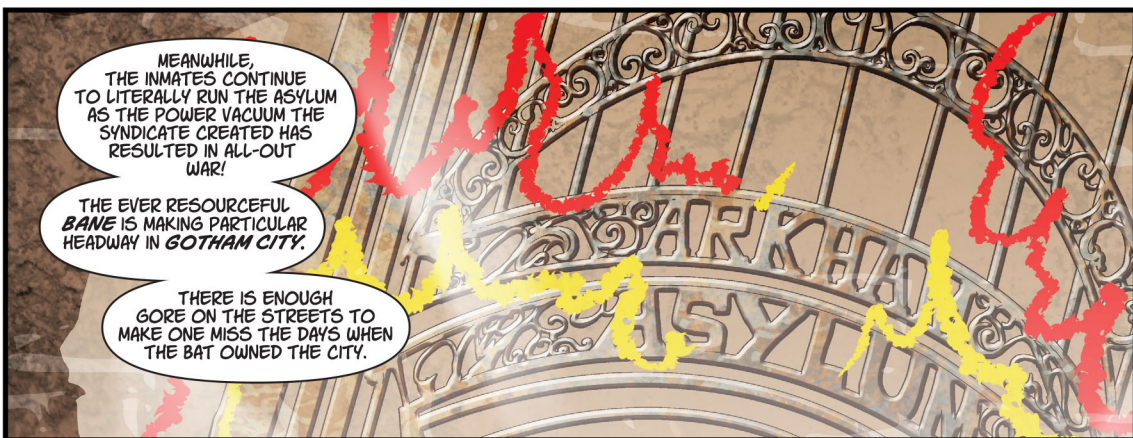


THE SYNDICATE HAD SUCCEEDED IN MOMENTS WHERE OTHERS HAD TRIED, AND FAILED, FOR YEARS.



FURTHERMORE, THEY PROMISED THEIR FOLLOWERS THAT THEY WOULD HUNT DOWN AND KILL EVERY FAMILY MEMBER AND ASSOCIATE OF RICHARD "NIGHTWING" GRAYSON.

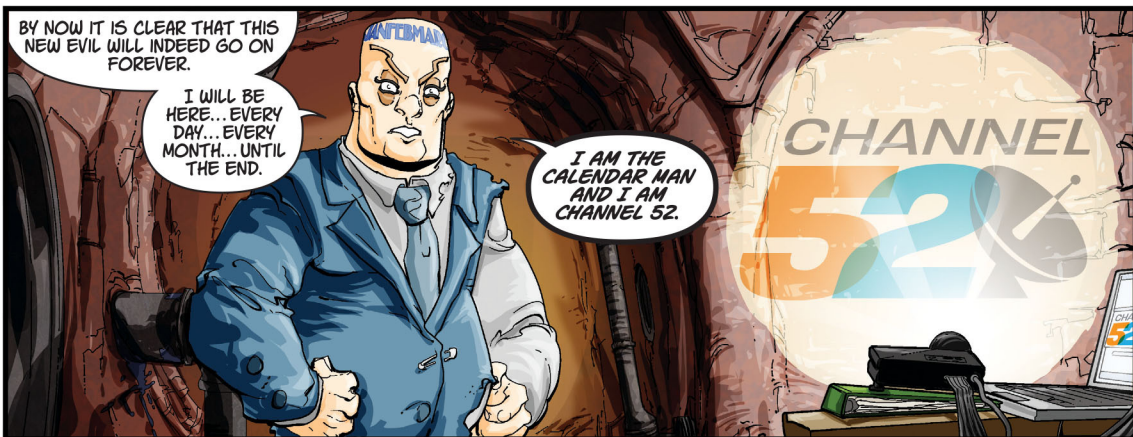
I FIND NO REASON TO DOUBT THEIR ABILITY OR WILL TO DO SO.



MEANWHILE, THE INMATES CONTINUE TO LITERALLY RUN THE ASYLUM AS THE POWER VACUUM THE SYNDICATE CREATED HAS RESULTED IN ALL-OUT WAR!

THE EVER RESOURCEFUL BANE IS MAKING PARTICULAR HEADWAY IN GOTHAM CITY.

THERE IS ENOUGH GORE ON THE STREETS TO MAKE ONE MISS THE DAYS WHEN THE BAT OWNED THE CITY.



BY NOW IT IS CLEAR THAT THIS NEW EVIL WILL INDEED GO ON FOREVER.

I WILL BE HERE... EVERY DAY... EVERY MONTH... UNTIL THE END.

I AM THE CALENDAR MAN AND I AM CHANNEL 52.